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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
Main Street
Westphalia
Osage County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1794

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HABS No. MO-1794

Location: Main St., Westphalia, Osage County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Cornerstone for nave, aisles, and chancel laid in 1848. Steeple built 1883. The church was consecrated by Archbishop Kain on October 24, 1894. Clerestory added 1905.

Built of magnesium limestone, the church "is 128 feet long. The nave of the church measures 94 feet and the sanctuary 34 feet. The main part of the nave is 41 feet wide and the front part 53 feet wide. The steeple measures 160 feet. The cross on the steeple is six feet high..." (Rev. A. G. Hilke to C. van Ravenswaay, April 1, 1964).

In 1883, "the present church tower was built up; the blessing took place on Pentecost Sunday," 1883, by the Jesuit Provincial. The tower clock was made by Edward Polhans, St. Louis, and installed in 1883. The four bells, also installed in 1883, were cast by J.G. Stucstede and Brother, St. Louis. The largest, dedicated to St. Joseph, is 3'9" in height, and the diameter at the base is 4'11". The second, dedicated to St. Ignatius, measures 3' 1 1/2" in height, and 4' in diameter at base. The third bell, dedicated to St. Gertrude, measures 3'1" in height, and 3' in diameter. The fourth bell measures 2'10" in height and has a diameter of 2'2".

Local pride seems to have had something to do with raising the height of the church by adding the clerestory in 1905 (with its exterior walls covered with sheet metal stamped to imitate masonry). The Church that had been built at Richfountain 1879-1880 was taller and more impressive in size than the church at Westphalia, and the parishioners sought to correct that situation by the enlargement of their church. The architect for the additions and alterations made in 1905 was Brother Anslem (sic.), O.F.M. and the general contractor was Henry A. Brune. Carpenters John C. Horstdaniel, Henry Horstdaniel, and Henry Ilse and stone masons Louis Heinrichs and William Kolkmeier completed the work.

The information of the architectural work in 1905 suggests that some changes were made to the interior design. It is possible, although no evidence has been found to verify this, that the aisles, and much of the interior architectural trim, were added at this time by William Kloer. It seems very unlikely that an interior of these pretensions would have been built in 1848 in this area. The baroque altars are attributed to a local parishioner, "a Mr. Ruehrenbrink. Before making them he visited a number of churches in St. Louis to get ideas. However, I could not find out the exact date they were made and installed." (Reverend A.G. Hilke to Charles van Ravenswaay, April 1, 1964)

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Gilbert J. Garraghan, S.J., "The Mission of Central Missouri," 171; "The Jesuits of the Middle United States," 448ff.; Rev. J.C. Melies, S.T.L., Pastor, Souvenir of the Centennial Celebration of St. Joseph's Parish, Westphalia, Missouri, August 6, 1935.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp and in 1986 by Deborah Fulton, HABS historians. A master list is available in the ~~MO-1794~~ records for MO-1800.